



# Civilian Oversight Committee (COC)

Committee of the Whole Board

August 9, 2022



# PURPOSE

- To review/investigate public complaints filed against GCRTA Transit Police employees and make recommendations
- Recommendations must be consistent with GCRTA/TP rules, policies, procedures, collective bargaining agreement



# POLICE OVERSIGHT

- Increases police accountability
- May assist in liability management/reduce the likelihood of costly litigation
- May identify areas of concern/offer options to improve policing
- Helps improve quality of Internal Affairs investigations
- Increase public understanding of police policies and procedures
- Fosters communication between community and police



# MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

- Ability to remain objective/unbiased
- Reflect customer base
- At least 18 years of age
- Resident of Cuyahoga County
- No criminal history
- General understanding of GCRTA and TP services



# COMMITTEE SELECTION

- Application process
- Screening Committee
  - One or more Board members (selected by Board Chair)
  - GCRTA Chief Executive Officer
  - GCRTA Chief of Police
  - Two or more GCRTA employees (selected by GCRTA Chief Executive Officer)
- Board of Trustees makes final selection from qualified applicants

# COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

- Seven individuals from diverse communities within Cuyahoga County
- At least one retired police officer with Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) training and investigative experience
- Selected by application to the COC by the Board of Trustees
- Terms for COC members shall be three years (staggered)
  - Two initial appointments for one year
  - Two initial appointments for two years
  - Three initial appointments for three years

# COMPENSATION

- Recommended \$1,200 per annum paid at \$100/month
- Unlimited transit privileges for COC member
  - COC member shall receive GCRTA badge/ID card

# COMMITTEE TRAINING

## Internal/External

- Constitutional and other relevant law regarding police-citizen encounters, use of force, stops, searches, and arrests
- Police tactics
- Investigations of police misconduct
- Bias-free policing
- Policing individuals in crisis
- GCRTA/TP policies, procedures, and disciplinary rules
- GCRTA Code of Ethics
- Ohio Sunshine Laws
- Community outreach



# COMPLAINT/INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

- Complaint received by Transit Police
- TP conducts Internal Affairs investigation (if necessary)
- Administrative Commander forwards complaint and investigative materials to COC
- COC hears case within ten days
  - Interview officers, complainant, etc.
  - Majority required to carry any action forward
- COC makes recommendation(s) to Chief of Police

# CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## Phase 1 – Initiate 10/1/21 – 7/29/22

- Present the Board with initial concept
- Gather necessary resources to support development of COC - **Completed**

## Phase 2 – Plan 6/1/22 – 8/30/22

- Develop necessary plans; seek BOT approval
- Review and finalize proposed Operating Procedures
- Execute steps to formally establish COC
  - BOT to pass resolution for creation of the COC

## Phase 3 – Execute 8/31/22 – 11/28/22 (Tentative)

- BOT approves finalized Operating Procedures
- Recruit and screen applicants
- BOT appoints seven members to the COC
- COC members receive training

## Phase 4 – Control 11/29/22 – 12/28/22 (Tentative)

- Ensure COC functions are carried out in accordance with BOT policy
- Continue training for COC members

## Phase 5 – Close Project 12/29/22 (Tentative)

- COC becomes operational unit

# Recommendation

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Board of Trustees the creation of the Civilian Oversight Committee.

